

Catholic Action



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MARCH, 1953

Philadelphia to Spotlight the Family

REV. EDGAR SCHMIEDELER, O.S.B., Ph.D.

YOUTH CIRCLES THE GLOBE

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN N.C.W.C.

N.C.C.W. BOARD OF DIRECTORS LOOKS AHEAD

STATEMENTS FROM THE N.C.C.W. BOARD MEETING

N.C.C.M. HEADQUARTERS REPORTING

CALENDAR OF CATHOLIC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A NATIONAL MONTHLY PUBLISHED BY THE

National Catholic Welfare Conference

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Calendar of Scheduled Catholic Meetings and Events

March, 1953

- 16-18—NATIONAL CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON FAMILY LIFE—21st annual convention, Philadelphia, Pa.
19—SOLEMN CONSECRATION OF THE MOST REV. JOHN F. HACKETT as Titular Bishop of Helenopolis in Palaestina and Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford, in Hartford, Conn.

April, 1953

- 7-9—CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—27th national conference, Columbus, Ohio.
7-10—NATIONAL CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION—50th annual convention, Atlantic City, N. J.
11-12—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC MEN—annual meeting, St. Louis, Mo.
14-15—ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD, N.C.W.C.—Spring meeting, Washington, D. C.
19-24—WORLD MISSION EXHIBIT, BOSTON GARDEN, BOSTON, MASS. (The exhibit will be shown in St. Louis May 17-22, and in New York City May 31-June 6. Three more showings are planned for the fall.)
21—OUTDOOR APOSTOLATE OF THE SOUTHEAST—annual meeting, Richmond, Va.
22-26—CATHOLIC COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH—biennial convention, Richmond, Va.
26-28—NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN—regional conference, Fresno, Calif.

May, 1953

- 3—APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA SUNDAY
3-5—NATIONAL CATHOLIC MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION—national convention, Atlanta, Ga.
6-9—CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION—annual convention, Atlantic City, N. J.
25-28—CATHOLIC HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION—38th annual convention, Kansas City, Mo.
29-June 2—KAPPA GAMMA PI—11th national congress, New York City.

June, 1953

- 9-13—CATHOLIC THEATER CONFERENCE—9th biennial convention, Denver, Colo.
14-20—INSTITUTE ON INDUSTRY AND SOCIAL ACTION—Washington, D. C.
22-24—CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY—general meeting, Baltimore, Md.
30-July 1—CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—Priests' Institute, Duluth, Minn.

July, 1953

- 19-22—CATHOLIC CENTRAL VEREIN OF AMERICA and THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WOMEN'S UNION—annual conventions, San Antonio, Texas

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Catholic Action

Vol. XXXV, No. 3

March, 1953

Our Common Catholic Interests

Theology Digest Newest Magazine

JANUARY 1953 marked the appearance of the first issue of an entirely new magazine—*Theology Digest*. It is believed to be the first such magazine in English. The purpose of *Theology Digest* is to make available in convenient form the most significant current articles dealing with theology. The new magazine will be published three times a year by the Jesuit faculty and students of St. Mary's College, Divinity School of St. Louis University. The subscription price is \$2.00 a year in the United States (foreign, \$2.25) and correspondence should be addressed to: *Theology Digest*, 1015 Central, Kansas City 5, Missouri.

The Rev. Gerald Van Akeren, S.J., S.T.D., is editor of the new magazine.

The United States and Non-Self-Governing Peoples

"THERE has been a startlingly rapid growth of consciousness in the United States of the need for a mature and alert policy with regard to the aspirations for independence of the non-self-governing peoples of the world. The question of the U.S. attitude toward these aspirations has become a major element in American foreign policy problems."

Thus reads a statement on "U.S. Policy Toward the Independence of Non-Self-Governing Peoples" published by the Subcommittees on Dependent Areas and Africa of the Catholic Association for International Peace.

"The right to complete independence cannot be stated in absolute terms," continues the statement. "The right becomes certain as soon as independence becomes essential to the welfare of a people. Within the framework of the common good, the claim of a people to complete independence may be conditioned by several factors, including their ability to assure the internal political and economic stability required for the establishment of a legitimate and permanent gov-

ernment; geographical, economic and ethnic factors which affect their welfare; due consideration for the rights and welfare of the administering state as well as the welfare of the international community."

The statement sets forth basic rights and obligations in the problem, discusses U.S. policy—past and present—makes suggestions and sounds warnings, concluding with the thought that the examination of the right of self-government "demands good faith on the part of all, the avoidance of any narrow, selfish nationalism on the part both of the administering powers and of the emergent nations, as well as the avoidance of the intrusion of selfish interests by third parties."

Parish Activity

SPEAKING on the occasion of an anniversary celebration of a parish in Rome, His Holiness Pope Pius XII called for greater participation of the laity in the work of Catholic associations. Following are excerpts from the discourse:

"Will you enter into a holy rivalry of fraternal emulation with the other parishes of the city?"

"Then it is necessary that you priests and militant laymen, together with all the faithful, form an efficient and hard working community, so that Jesus may be the life of all souls.

"Be first of all an efficient community.

"In the Cenacle at Jerusalem, there gathered together, under the eye of Mary, the Christian community, the Church, initiated by the preaching of the Lord, consummated on the gibbet of the Cross, manifested in her unity and universality on Pentecost day. She will remain the model, the prototype of every Christian community, even of the parish. The latter also is a family whose members live and work in fraternal community. It is advisable, then, to remove far from it, as far as possible, the excesses of the individualistic spirit and bring forth proof of the uselessness of separated efforts, without reciprocal help and mutual collaboration.

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Philadelphia To Spotlight The Family

Rev. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., Ph.D.

AN impressive national convention is scheduled for Philadelphia, March 16-18. For three days it will focus the spotlight on the family. For it will be the 1953 meeting of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. It promises to give further impetus to the already vigorous and rapidly growing family apostolate.

The readers of CATHOLIC ACTION will undoubtedly be interested in the program of the convention. In presenting it to them in the following paragraphs, occasion is also taken to explain briefly the family apostolate and the reasons for its existence, as well as the manner in which it functions. The latter point calls for at least an outline of its organizational set-up and some description of its chief specific activities.

The family apostolate is an organized effort to help build a strong and genuinely Christian family life. To earlier efforts of the Church to help the family through the sermon, the catechism, and brief instructions before marriage, it adds a considerable number of other ways and means of aiding and strengthening it. The terms used in this connection have become quite familiar. They are such as the following: family retreats; forums and discussion clubs; mothers' circles and Mr. and Mrs. Clubs; institutes and marriage preparation courses.

The family apostolate is so organized that it is kept under the direction of the Bishops' Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. It centers in a special section of this organization known as the Family Life Bureau. This Bureau serves as a full-time secretariate or center to promote the apostolate in a systematic organized way. Working in conjunction with it is the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. The members of this body represent the best Catholic talent in the field of marriage, the family, parent education or child care and training in the home, and related subjects. Among them are sociologists, psychologists and psychiatrists, economists, theologians, liturgists, doctors, and civil and ecclesiastical lawyers. The Conference was organized by the Director of the Family Life Bureau in order that the latter agency might have the help and guidance of these specialists.

Both the Family Life Bureau and the National Catholic Conference on Family Life reach out to the great mass of Catholic people through the giant lay

departments of the National Catholic Welfare Conference: the Lay Organizations Department, consisting of the National Council of Catholic Women and the National Council of Catholic Men; and the Youth Department, with its National Catholic Youth Council, consisting of the Catholic Youth Organization, the National Federation of Catholic College Students and the Newman Club Federation. On both a national and local scale, these lay groups have special committees or commissions that devote their efforts exclusively to family life activities.

The family apostolate work is kept under the direction of the Church in the following way: a priest directs the National Bureau, N.C.W.C., and a bishop serves as its moderator. Locally, practically every diocese has a priest-director of family life. This official works with the National Bureau under the direction of his own bishop. The lay organizations, in turn, also have ecclesiastical direction.

It cannot be surprising that the Church is interested in the apostolate of the family. The welfare of both Church and State is most intimately bound up with the welfare of the family. As Pope Pius XI expressed the matter in his encyclical on *Christian Marriage*, "the whole is no better than its parts." In other words, strong family units mean a vigorous nation, a thriving Church.

It might well be added that the family is also important to the individual. What the child becomes, for instance, depends immeasurably upon the influences that play upon him in his early days and years in the family circle. Normally, the radicals and delinquents, the delinquents and criminals of a society are in very great part a reflection of a faulty home life and training. For the grown-up, too, the family is highly important. Successful family life is for him one of the greatest sources of happiness in this world. At the same time it is the medium through which the great majority of mankind must attain to their eternal happiness.

But why such an elaborate and systematically organized family apostolate as we have today? The answer is found in the condition of present day family life. One need but glance at the daily paper to realize that there is much wrong with the American family. Divorce is rampant, delinquency is rife. Many individuals have totally rejected the great foundation

stones of marriage, its unity, sanctity, and indissolubility. Many have set aside the prime purpose of marriage, the child. Many fail in the child's training. To some extent at least even Catholics have become infected and influenced by these evils. It was this that gave rise to the special organized efforts in the Church that constitute the present apostolate. It aims at correcting this unfortunate situation. Indeed, it does more, much more. It aims at building as fine a Christian family life as the world has ever known.

As the work of the apostolate has progressed, the causes of the family's weaknesses and troubles have become consistently clearer. Thus, our complicated modern city life is known to have hurt the family in a variety of ways. Even greater harm has been done to it through the constant teaching of false doctrines through such far-reaching media as the press, the radio, the school, and the rostrum. But most hurtful of all has been the secularism of the day, the attempt of conceited man to manage without God and religion in his family life and in all life. Knowledge of these general sources or causes of the family's weaknesses and infirmities has logically led to the adoption of remedies suited for their cure.

At least the major lines of action that constitute the apostolate today can be seen from a brief description of the program that has been prepared for the Philadelphia convention. It is but to be expected that in the annual meetings sponsored by the Family Life Bureau effort would be centered in helping the family where help is needed most.

The theme of the convention is "The Father, the Head of the Home." There is a very general feeling that in great numbers of cases today the father is not really living up to his honored and important position as the family's head. Hence, the general theme indicated will be discussed at the convention from a variety of angles. The following are some of the specific topics under it which are listed on the program: the father, representative of Christ in the home; Thomas More, modern father and saint; vanishing fathers; the father's position according to St. Thomas; cultural influence and the father of the family; the father, the vocational guide of his children; the father, an important factor in the personality development of the child; some positive steps a father can take; the father, partner in the parent team. The last-mentioned topic, incidentally, shows that attention will also be given to the mother.

Other topics to which special sessions will be devoted are: the economic problems of the family; altar and home; family interests; parent education; international family life programs; the contemporary family scene. Under the last-mentioned item discussion will center in the following: the population problem; the recent allocutions of the Holy Father on marriage morals; Christian art in the home; the Com-

munist attitude toward the family; television, a window of the world.

The third and last day of the convention will, for the most part, be devoted to the description of types of activities presently found to the fore in the field of the family apostolate. Here one meets such topics as the following: the maternity guild; the Committee for the Christian Home and Family; the Grailville family service program; the family retreat; the St. Cloud Diocesan marriage preparation course; the apostolate on the parish basis; the National Council of Catholic Women promotes the family apostolate.

There will also be on the last day a special youth session. Several officials of national groups that constitute the National Catholic Youth Council will appear on its program.

As in other years, there will be a number of special features on the program. Family Catholic Action awards will be given to several individuals who have distinguished themselves by work in the field of the family apostolate. Gold medals will be presented to a number of outstanding Catholic mothers of the Philadelphia Archdiocese.

Two Philadelphians were chosen national Catholic mothers-of-the-year over past years—Mrs. Louis B. Scheerer in 1945 and Mrs. Richard McSorley in 1948. Both of these outstanding Catholic women recently went to their reward. A requiem Mass will be offered for them in St. John the Evangelist Church on the morning of March 17. The Mass will be offered by Bishop Peter W. Bartholome, who is the son of Catherine Jacobs Bartholome, the first woman to be chosen National Catholic Mother. All ten of the Scherer children have become religious and eight of the fourteen living McSorley children belong to religious communities. There was a fifteenth McSorley child who died at an early age.

Both the opening and the closing of the convention will take place in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. The opening service will consist of a Pontifical High Mass which will be offered by the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. The closing will consist of a Family Holy Hour, at which married couples present will renew their marriage vows and all in attendance will recite the pledge to Christian marriage.

All parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia will have the Family Holy Hour. The Silver Jubilarians of the Archdiocese—couples married in 1928—will be invited to attend the closing service at the Cathedral. Throughout the country similar Holy Hours will be held in many dioceses and parishes on the evening of March 18, coinciding in time with the one being held in Philadelphia. This will afford many hundreds of thousands an opportunity for at least some participation in the conference being held in Philadelphia.

Youth Circles The Globe

Marie Riordan

World Affairs—Your Business

ARTICLE VII

IN THE atom-smashing, H-bomb-testing world of today, American Catholic youth should be, and are, becoming more aware of the very real need for interest in affairs beyond their own door stoop. Young people can no longer gaze through amber-tinted glasses unthinkingly; they must stare at harsh black-and-white facts unblinkingly . . . at a world still shaky from two wars in less than half a century, at a world rebuilding with the ominous threat of a third world war aimed at its heart. What have they done? What are they doing? How will they mold the future?

They have discovered a door that swings wide marked Youth Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, a door symbolizing home for the National Federation of Diocesan Catholic Youth Councils, National Federation of Catholic College Students, and National Newman Club Federation. They have found a unified voice through the NFCCS and NNCF, its powerful refrain echoing through *Pax Romana* on the international scene. They have been heartened when they spoke out clearly and distinctly, through the three federations, on the fundamental issue of Human Rights. They have stepped into the international spotlight, to cue and be cued on the thinking of other countries in the Young Adult Council of the World Assembly of Youth. They are the ambassadors of today fast maturing into the leaders of tomorrow—ready to join the ranks of stalwart men and staunch women in the organizations affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Men and the National Council of Catholic Women. Yes, they seem to have taken their part—but exactly HOW?

The Youth Department, characteristically placed close to the feet of "Christ the Light," modernistic bronze statue which fronts the N.C.W.C. building, is the medium for bringing together some six million Catholic young men and women, scattered from north to south, east to west, ranging in age from seven to thirty. An unwieldy number—perhaps! A number which presents some serious conflicts, personality clashes—certainly! A large age gap—yes! But then, who has ever thought that curbing willful youth, harnessing driving energies was an easy task? Here then, the Council must be active, comprised of alert young people who do not simply attend conventions, but listen attentively to what is said; do not draw up paper

plans, but devise the right moves; do not sit back in self-satisfied swivel-chair complacency, but study new ways for broadening and expanding youth's outlook.

Youth, through the Student Travel Program of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, are offered an opportunity to see new horizons, wonder at different cultures, solder fraying friendships in a small way with other nations. As six-week, summer-time tourists, they may catch a fleeting glimpse of the haunting smile of the Mona Lisa, stand in awed fascination before the Palace of the Doges, and receive, most wonderful of all, the simple blessing of the Holy Father. Europe beckons—thousands of American Catholic students respond . . . diplomats for forty days. The Youth Department makes it possible for these students to travel abroad each year, to see for themselves the "glory that was Greece, the grandeur that was Rome!"

Do American Catholic youth glibly hoard the wealth gained in Europe, not wanting or caring to do anything in return? True enough, we have not its great culture, but we can offer material aid—for the spirit might perish as will the body on an empty purse. The Overseas Program of the NFCCS tries to serve as a partial answer to a growing problem—relief for suffering students, victims of war, building for a better tomorrow. Youth, stretching hands across the sea, forge lasting links in the chain of international friendship.

In 1951, NFCCS sent \$22,000 overseas for student relief; \$19,000 was collected and retained for use on college campuses for dependent DP students, and 13,839 pounds of goods were shipped overseas. On a more personal basis, over five hundred letters were sent through the Correspondence Exchange Program to students throughout the world. This past year, \$14,000 was collected for needy students in foreign lands, while \$10,000 was retained on campuses for displaced students here in the United States.

The warm clasp of human fraternity has been felt through the National Newman Club Federation as one of the sponsors of the World Student Service Fund. W. S. S. F. gives young Catholic leaders an opportunity to work beside leaders of other national student federations in giving aid to students in far-flung areas of the globe—and, at the same time, enlarging their vision on world problems.

American Catholic youth have a powerful voice—do they use it on the international scene? Yes, NFCCS and NNCF speak with authority and assurance for thousands of young adult students and their words are reiterated by *Pax Romana* to member federations of the world. What is this *Pax Romana*? How does it work?

The seedling idea for the organization *Pax Romana* was planted in the international youth field in the 1880's and nurtured painstakingly in Europe during days when "Catholic Action" appeared with a small "a," when such an organization was but the dream and hope of an age yet-to-be. But the seedling, through constant care and attention, came to its final fruition with the Pope's appeal for "Catholic Action," now spelled with the familiar capital letter. To Baron George de Montenach of Switzerland goes the honor as sower of the seed for this international union of Catholic students. The Baron, unwilling to stop here, harvested a few foreign delegates for the first international meeting in Fribourg, 1888. In succeeding years, the seeds he planted in the main university centers of Europe began to bear more fruit. Unhindered by weeds, the new soil was indeed yielding a fine crop . . . interest was growing steadily, the union itself sturdier. By 1921, Switzerland with the enthusiastic support of Holland and Spain spaded the ground for a joint Action Committee for the Organization of a First Congress . . . here *Pax Romana* was born.

How did *Pax Romana* fare the first twenty-five years of its existence? Struggling for survival, twentieth-century apostles stepped forward to help in the hoeing of a long field, a field dotted by countless hours of thankless drudgery under the noon-day sun of disapproval, a field marked by unnumbered weeks of tireless journeying under the everyday strain of financial worry. The year 1939 sounded the death knell, the end of an uphill struggle, the almost certain demise of an international organization that had suffered growing pains. Poland was invaded, youth were to be swept before the current of war, uprooted from families and friends to join opposing armies, to fight, instead of side by side, against one another in a life-and-death battle. The *Pax Romana* Congress, meeting in Washington that year and being torn asunder by the powder keg of war, closed with a Night of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament; Germans and Poles genuflected together, one in spirit, divided in heart, keeping this solemn vigil on the eve of world conflict. Yet, however stunted the movement seemed to be during those gloomy war days in Europe, it spread through the length and breadth of the Latin Americas.

Pax Romana—how does it stand today? Comprised of two sections—the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs or MIIC from the initials of its French title (Mouvement International des Intellectuels Catholiques), with the International Movement of Catholic Students working in close collaboration.

THE N.C.W.C. Forum Committee, representative of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, presents its 1952-53 series of eight articles, month by month, under the general title, "World Affairs: Your Business." These have been prepared for general use and should be especially helpful to organization and educational leaders.

Use the articles:

- For your own information.
- For stimulating a program of action in your organization.
- As texts for discussion clubs, forums, round tables, radio talks.
- For informal discussion at home and abroad.

Use the questions at the end as guides for reading and discussion.

Reprints of these articles are available.

8¢ a single copy; 5¢ a copy in lots of 100 or more

Not merely a social gathering of "graduated" members of the Movement bound by personal friendships and a community of experiences, the MIIC is ever hopeful, ever watchful for the flicker of support from Catholic graduates, for the glimmer of interest from professional people which could be fanned into the flame of apostolic zeal. The time is now, the need most urgent for more positive Catholic contributions to present-day thought—an articulate apostolate at home whether discussing questions of political economy, debating intricate points of international law, keeping abreast of the almost-daily developments in psychology, or talking intelligently on changing trends in modern-day philosophy. Urgent too is the need for coordinating such a valiant endeavor in all these fields and the abrupt transference from theory into practice, from the purely intellectual realm to the twentieth-century workaday world. Now, more essential than ever before in view of the extensive program undertaken in this field by UNESCO, Catholics must be on their toes and mentally alert, ready to take full advantage of the proper media and make effective contributions.

The problem is large and MIIC have not always the means within their grasp to solve it. The problem of finances, although dangerously pressing, appears midget-sized next to the far greater difficulty with the people of the liberal professions themselves who lack the homogeneity and suppleness of the ready and willing college student.

The IMCS, on the other hand, carries on the traditional activity of *Pax Romana*—expressly, the promotion and coordination of the efforts of the National Catholic student federations of the world. Perhaps their aims might best be summarized by themselves as expressed at their Study Week in Anzio in 1947—

- (a) the integral formation of the Catholic student;
- (b) the re-Christianization of the university;
- (c) the rebuilding of a community of nations

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CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN N.C.W.C.

News of Work, Projects, Interests

HUNDREDS of visitors come into the N.C.W.C. headquarters building each year.

Those coming for the first time invariably stop outside to admire the windowless granite facade with the great bronze statue of Christ, The Light of the World, standing in its towering, fluted semi-circular niche. Those who have been here before do not pause so long, but walk briskly through one or the other of the two all-glass doors.

Whether they come for the first time, or the twentieth time, they all come to learn something about the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the work of the Catholic Church in the United States. None leaves empty-handed, but sometimes one will leave with more than he, or anyone else, bargained for.

Such a visitor was Dr. Karl Bringmann, editor of KNA (Katholische Nachrichten Agentur—Catholic News Agency) of Germany. KNA is a new news service founded by the Bishops of Germany, and before it was to start, they sent Dr. Bringmann to the United States to study how their brother Bishops had organized a similar venture—the N.C.W.C. News Service—of which the world has heard so much.

Dr. Bringmann came to the N.C.W.C. He watched and he studied. He went about the country, too, to see the News Service serving the Catholic newspapers. And he came back again to the N.C.W.C. headquarters. He knew now what he must do to start the German Bishops' Catholic news service. And he did it. With the gracious permission of Bishop Thomas K. Gorman, Coadjutor of Dallas and episcopal chairman of the N.C.W.C. Press Department, he took the N.C.W.C. News Service Foreign Editor, G. R. Brunst, back to Germany with him—but only on a three-month loan, to help start KNA.

The Story Behind A Story

The remarkable and unique tribute and blessing which His Holiness Pope Pius XII sent to the editors and the millions of readers of the Catholic Press at the beginning of February has an interesting story attached to it.

This is the message in which the Holy Father notes that February is annually observed as Catholic Press Month in the United States, and in which he extends his "whole-hearted, paternal commendation" to those who cooperate in the work of the Catholic Press. Perhaps there never was a greater need for the faithful to understand clearly the relationship of current events to unchanging Christian values, the Pontiff declares.

The message was addressed to the Most Rev. Thomas K. Gorman, Coadjutor of Dallas and episcopal chairman of the N.C.W.C. Press Department. And the message grew out of a suggestion which Bishop Gorman made when the Holy Father graciously received him in audience, together with members of the N.C.W.C. Press Department staff. Bishop Gorman, a former Catholic editor himself and the originator of two other Catholic newspapers, used the occasion humbly to suggest to the Holy Father some message of encouragement to the Catholic Press. It was at the time of the Consistory, when His Holiness created 24 new Cardinals, and the Holy Father was tremendously busy with the great ceremony and many other affairs. But His Holiness gave new evidence of his tremendous interest in the Catholic Press by promising such a message, if it were at all possible in such pressing times. And the Holy Father found time. Just on the eve of Press month, the message arrived for Bishop Gorman, signed by Pope Pius XII himself!

Bishop Gorman was in Rome as a member of the party that accompanied His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, to the Consistory at which he received the Red Hat. While in Rome, the Bishop was accorded a papal audience, and introduced to the Holy Father on this occasion Frank A. Hall, director of the N.C.W.C. Press Department, and Mrs. Hall; Msgr. Joseph J. Sullivan, Rome correspondent of the N.C.W.C. News Service, whom the Holy Father had just made a Monsignor; and G. R. Brunst, foreign editor of the N.C.W.C. News Service. Mr. Hall and Mr. Brunst were in Rome in connection with Consistory coverage.

Catholic Thought on Some Current Problems

Meetings dealing with issues of the day are constantly engaging the attention of members of the N.C.W.C. Department of Social Action staff.

An interesting example of this phase of the department's greatly diversified work was a forum discussing "Labor Participation in Management in West Germany," sponsored by the Georgetown University Department of Economics. Father John F. Cronin, S.S., and Father George Higgins, both assistant directors of the N.C.W.C. department, were speaker and discussant, respectively.

The undertaking was so successful that a follow-up to this meeting is being planned by the N.C.W.C. Department of Social Action, jointly with the Georgetown University Graduate School. It will be a series of forums on social problems.

In another activity of the department, practical problems in pastoral social action were discussed at a regional priests' meeting in Columbus, March 2 and 3. Priests from the entire midwest were invited to attend.

In still another of the department's widespread interests, Father Cronin discussed current problems in immigration in the Catholic University Lenten Round Table For Lawyers. The lecture treated of areas of possible improvement in the McCarran-Walter Act.

A new publication dealing with Communism made its appearance last month, and both the N.C.W.C. Department of Social Action and the National Council of Catholic Men had an active interest in it. The new work is called *Freedom's Facts Against Communism* and it is sponsored by the All American Conference to Combat Communism. The N.C.C.M., a member of the Conference, chose Father Cronin as its delegate to the Conference, and Father Cronin served on the editorial board directing the publication of the new work. The Men's Council is distributing the publication to its affiliated members.

When the Washington Chapter of the Industrial Relations Research Association discussed "The Philosophy of the Labor Movement," Father took part in the panel.

National Renewal of Nuptial Vow

It is expected that hundreds of thousands of couples in the United States will renew their marriage vows this year in churches throughout the country.

This becomes the prospect as plans go forward in the N.C.W.C. Family Life Bureau for the 1953 convention of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life, to be held in Philadelphia, March 16-18. Pastors all over the country have been circularized, and it is planned to have the renewal of marriage vows take place in the individual churches the evening of March 18, the time of the closing of the Philadelphia convention.

Twenty sessions have been arranged for the convention, which is sponsored by the N.C.W.C. Family Life Bureau. Participants will come from all parts of the United States. Members of the Lay Organizations and Youth Departments of N.C.W.C. are among those who will take part.

Some 75,000 pieces of printed matter have been sent out in preparation for the convention, and the nation-wide renewal of the nuptial vows. All Bishops, diocesan directors of Family Life, members of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life, and many officials of schools and lay organizations have been sent programs of the forthcoming meeting.

The convention in Philadelphia will close with its usual ceremony. This takes the form of a Family Holy Hour including the renewal of the marriage promises and the recitation of the pledge to Christian marriage. The convention ceremony will take place in the Philadelphia Cathedral.

The launching of the Inter-American League of Catholic Parents in Latin America has very considerably increased the correspondence between the Family Life Bureau and the countries to the south. Calls for the Bureau's publications on marriage, the family and child training have multiplied.

Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy

Hundreds of Catholic men and women throughout the country are given abundant opportunities to practice spiritual and corporal works of mercy through a program that is directed from the N.C.W.C. headquarters building.

It is the program in U.S. Veterans Administration Hospitals carried out by the National Catholic Community Service. The objectives of this program are threefold:

1. To provide special assistance to the chaplains in VA hospitals.
2. To stimulate the work of Catholic organizations in providing services for the hospitalized veterans.
3. To meet the spiritual, recreational and personal needs of hospitalized veterans by organizing, coordinating and guiding all Catholic volunteer activity in the VA hospital program.

Catholic men and women, take an active part in this work. Working in close cooperation with the chaplains, these volunteers:

Organize altar societies, take care of altar linens, repair vestments, prepare the chapels for religious services, provide flowers for the altars, serve as organists and choristers.

Their "wheel chair brigades," made up of volunteers who sacrifice extra sleep on Sunday, bring to Mass patients who otherwise could not attend. These "chair pushers" have a personally initiated custom of receiving Holy Communion with the patients they escort to Mass. According to the chaplains, they are

responsible for a great increase in Holy Communion among the patients.

The services of NCCS volunteers are not restricted to Catholic patients by any means. Well versed in hospital routine through orientation and indoctrination courses given by the VA hospital staffs, these volunteers supply a continuous round of personal services to hospitalized veterans. They read to the blind, write letters for those who cannot, shop when requested to, and run errands.

The volunteers also sponsor parties and dances, organizing groups of Catholic hostesses for these events. They serve as volunteer instructors in occupational therapy, to assist the rehabilitation and speedy recovery of patients. As they serve all patients without distinction, they help to bear witness to the universality of the Church.

This program was launched four years ago, when the Administrative Board of Bishops designated the NCCS as the official agency to develop a program of Catholic volunteer service in VA hospitals.

Today, the program operates in 163 hospitals in 93 archdioceses and dioceses, with 163 NCCS representatives serving on advisory committees in various Veterans Administration hospitals, 69 diocesan committees organized to further the work, and with 80 diocesan and parish organizations participating in the nation-wide program.

Problems and Surprises, Too

The extent of the service rendered by the N.C.W.C. Bureau of Immigration is in some measure reflected by the astonishing variety of problems that confront it.

Right now, the Bureau is very much occupied in studying and evaluating the immigrant quota situation, which, naturally, is somewhat confused since Public Law 414 went into effect on December 24. The law granted new preferences which disarranged the old waiting lists.

A surprise development which has drawn more than passing interest from the Bureau is that the German quota, usually over-subscribed for about two years in advance, has suddenly become current. And this, despite the fact that about 600,000 applicants are registered on the waiting list.

The reason seems, to the Bureau, to be that persons whose names have been reached on the list either changed their minds about wishing to come to the United States, finding conditions in the homeland improved since they first registered, or else that they have no friends or relatives in this country to supply the guarantees of support. This will work to the benefit of persons of German birth now in the United States with legal temporary status which they have continued to maintain. It should now be possible for them to apply for adjustment of their status to that of permanent residents without leaving the United States.

The new law limits to 100 a year the quota numbers which any colony or other component or dependent area of a governing country can have. Thus Hong Kong and Malta for example, both British colonies, which previously could obtain numbers under the British quota without restriction in the past, now are limited to 100 quota numbers each. This is particularly hard on Malta, which has a large surplus population and not enough drinking water for those living on the island. Of course, it has been pointed out in reply to this, that there is nothing to prevent surplus population of British colonies from going to Australia, New Zealand or Canada.

But it is not likely that most of the 44 British colonies will use their quotas of 100 visas each. The British Isles and Northern Ireland for years have not in any event used anywhere near their limit of 60,000 visas.

On the other hand, things are pretty stringent with places like Portugal, with a total quota of 438 visas and eight sub-divisions to share it, or Spain, with a total quota of 250 and three sub-divisions.

Women's Council Work Grows

The work of the National Council of Catholic Women unites the efforts of more than 8,000,000 members of Catholic women's organizations in the United States.

Through this federation, the policies, statements and messages of the Bishops of the United States on a wide variety of topics are made known to the laity. Their counsel becomes the basis of action programs by affiliated groups. In February, 1953, the N.C.C.W. affiliations totaled nearly 7,800 units, including 19 national, nine state and 7,741 parish affiliations.

Great impetus was given to the growth of the Women's Council by the organization of the Boston Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, accomplished during February. This council was organized by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, who is Episcopal Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, N.C.W.C. It adds 362 organizations and many thousands of women to the already great numbers represented in the N.C.C.W.

The reports of the 24 National Directors of N.C.C.W. submitted at a meeting held in the Council's headquarters in Washington, D.C., in February, reflect the far-flung activity, the tremendous scope of the work, and the constantly growing number of those who labor ceaselessly that Christian concepts may inform the life of our country. Returning to their respective provinces—each director represents an ecclesiastical province on the national board—they took with them an even deeper realization of the unified character of this work; that there are no "solo ventures" but that Catholic Action is a cooperative endeavor, the Hierarchy, clergy and laity working together.

Catholic Education's Responsibility

One of the main responsibilities of the N.C.W.C. Department of Education is to keep Catholic educators informed about international and national developments in the field of education. While it should be perfectly clear that the individual Catholic school in the United States inevitably will be affected by these developments, there is always the danger that Catholic educators' preoccupation with local interests may cause them to overlook the larger picture. There is the further danger that this concern about local affairs may foster a parochialism and narrowness that is quite inconsistent with the broad and comprehensive objectives of Catholic education.

During the past month members of the Department's staff delivered lectures to organizations of Catholic teachers on the general topic of Catholic education's responsibility in world and national affairs. These lectures recommended some self-criticism concerning the extent to which Catholic schools are preparing their students "to go forth and teach all nations" and to be zealous and apostolic Catholics in their own community and in the nation at large. The teachers were advised that unless they themselves had a broad point of view they could not convey to their pupils the full message of Catholic education.

In an effort to practice what they preach members of the Department's staff also took part in a number of conferences sponsored by international and national organizations. At these conferences the Catholic point of view was presented and was well-received.

Notable among these conferences was the annual convention of the American Council on Education which had a very important session on international understanding and a number of sessions on vital national matters such as the dwindling supply of manpower for military service, revision of selective service regulations, modification of the curriculum in colleges for women, and protection of academic freedom.

Among the Department's routine activities during the past month were these:

1. Organization of an N.C.W.C. staff meeting on TV channels reserved for education.
2. Preparation of the Department's latest publication, *Teacher's Handbook for Pre-Induction Training*.
3. Conferences with the Department of State pertaining to UNESCO.
4. Publication of an article on Catholic education for the Fiftieth Anniversary issue of *Religious Education*.
5. Arrangements for the wide distribution among Catholics of the latest American Council on Education publication, "The Function of the Public Schools in Dealing With Religion."
6. Analysis of new Congressional proposals pertaining to the nation's schools.

7. Preparation of a report for the Executive Board of the National Council of Catholic Women.

8. Conferences with foreign visitors.

9. Development of materials for the Department's "Campaign for Homes" for next year's contingent of German and American teen-agers.

10. Answering inquiries addressed to the Department's library.

11. Regular services of the Teachers Registration Section.

Directory To Be Expanded

The 1953 Directory of Catholic Camps will be enlarged over last year's trail-blazing publication and will feature a new format, the N.C.W.C. Youth Department announces.

The Catholic camp directory was published last year for the first time by the National Catholic Camping Association, a part of the Youth Department, N.C.W.C., and received an enthusiastic reception from clergy and laity across the country. Msgr. Joseph E. Schieder, Youth Department director, says the new version will prove even more valuable to priests and parents.

The national officers of the National Catholic Camping Association met recently and heard a report from Msgr. James E. Dolan of Los Angeles that parents had written in enthusiastically about the directory, saying they had long sought something that would give them ready information on where they could find Catholic camps for their children with the fees, types of services and other information.

This meeting of officers also discussed plans for the national convention of the NCCA to be held at the Hotel Bradford, Boston, November 8-9, immediately preceding the Fourth National Conference on Catholic Youth Work. The officers evaluated the First National Conference on Catholic Camping, held last summer, with a view to providing similar conferences on a regional basis. In this connection they gave consideration of a division of the country into regions best suited to the member camps.

The 1953 directory will list camps under Catholic sponsorship according to states. The national officers—Fathers Harry S. Engel of New York, Louis F. Meyer of St. Louis and Arthur Krawczak of Detroit, along with Monsignor Dolan—suggested that camps of all categories be listed under state headings in one section of the directory. Last year, there were separate sections for camps for boys and camps for girls.

Chancery offices, superintendents of schools, diocesan youth directors and diocesan directors of charities all received copies of the directory. Miss Eileen Burgess, executive secretary of the National Catholic Camping Association, announces that readers of CATHOLIC ACTION may obtain a copy of the directory by sending one dollar to NCCA headquarters, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

NATIONAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC WOMEN

Board of Directors Meeting
—With NCSSS Today—Radio
Acclaim for Women—State-
ments of Board of Directors

N.C.C.W. Board of Directors Looks Ahead

THE complement of the Board of Directors of the National Council of Catholic Women—the 24 directors, one from each of the ecclesiastical provinces in the United States—met at the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, D. C., February 1-4. An executive committee meeting was held on February 1, followed by three days of intensive reporting and planning in the many fields of activity in which Catholic women are engaged. The National President, Mrs. William H. Dalton, presided.

The keynote of the meeting was struck by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Howard J. Carroll, general secretary, N.C.W.C., when in greeting the directors, he said: "We are bound together in a common work, the promotion of the mission of the Church in the United States. Our work is essentially a spiritual work. Our basic task is to devise the best means whereby through our organization the program of the Bishops for the conquest of souls for the apostolate can be implemented."

This broad view of the work of the National Council of Catholic Women was more specifically focused by Most Rev. Richard J. Cushing, Archbishop of Boston and episcopal chairman of the Lay Organizations Department, N.C.W.C., who graciously spent an entire day with the directors, giving them his penetrating and wise counsel. His Excellency pointed out that today is the age of the laity—a God-given means to cope with the crisis of our times. But the laity must be informed, enlightened, and trained. "For that reason especially," Archbishop Cushing said, "I am tremendously enthusiastic about the Council." He stated that parish organization is the means to effect the prayer, study and action program of the N.C.C.W., but that diocesan councils should sponsor special training institutes on current questions to teach parish council officers leadership on these controversial questions.

Through its national and international contacts, the N.C.C.W. keeps its finger on the pulse of the world and transmits this information to its affiliates through the national committee system. Hence a first step in the year's planning was taken when the appointments

of the chairmen and vice-chairmen of the 18 national committees were approved. These chairmen will fill the places of those who have so effectively served the Council during the past two years and whose terms of office expired at the national convention in September. The names of these new chairmen are given on the next page.

The plans for the N.C.C.W. Regional Conference to be held in Fresno, Calif., April 26-28, were discussed, and committee institutes for other sections of the country considered.

The Board accepted the kind invitation of Archbishop Cushing to hold the 27th national convention in Boston in the fall of 1954. This will be a major enterprise for a new council, but one which, without doubt, the Boston A.C.C.W. will accomplish with credit both to themselves and to their Archbishop. The Boston Archdiocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Women are being organized as we go to press. N.C.C.W. welcomes into its federation this 86th Council with its 362 affiliated units.

For the past two years N.C.C.W. has cooperated in the Teen-Age Program of the N.C.W.C. Department of Education, providing homes for 75 German and Austrian high school students during 1951 and for 78 of these teen-agers in 1952 while they were in this country for a year's schooling in connection with the Student Exchange Program of the U. S. Department of State. The Board of Directors voted to continue N.C.C.W. cooperation this year and will seek again the splendid response of affiliated organizations to this need.

The civic consciousness of N.C.C.W. found expression in the action taken by the Board in pledging more intensive cooperation in the National Blood Donor Program, in promising stimulation of the Bond-a-Month campaign of the U. S. Treasury Department, and in writing the National Tuberculosis Board to ask that the picture of Christ be placed on TB seals. The Board approved a letter to Congressman Celler commending him for his introduction in the House of the Bill H.R. 2240 setting up a Commission on the

Status of Women. A message of sympathy was sent to presidents of Catholic organizations in the flood-stricken areas of Europe.

The meeting coincided with President Eisenhower's delivery of his "State of the Union" message to Congress, so the meeting recessed to enable the directors to listen over the radio as the President analyzed the current social and political situation. The Board took cognizance of needs and opportunities on the national and international scenes in the statements it adopted (see p. 15).

Shortly before the President's message to Congress, the Board and Staff of N.C.C.W. were received at the White House by Mrs. Eisenhower and shown through a portion of the newly-renovated Executive Mansion. A reception honoring the Board of Directors was held in the Bishops' Conference Room of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, when the members met leaders of other national women's organizations, women liaison officers of other agencies with which N.C.C.W. cooperates, and directors of the N.C.W.C. Departments and Bureaus.

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND VICE CHAIRMEN N.C.C.W.

Civil Defense

Chairman: Mrs. A. S. Lucas
Diocese of Mobile
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Hugh Campbell
Diocese of Helena

Cooperating with Catholic Charities

Chairman: Mrs. George D. Rock
Archdiocese of Washington
Vice Chairman: Miss Marion L. Griffin
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Cooperating with CCD

Chairman: Mrs. A. J. Koriath
Diocese of Dallas
Vice Chairman: Mrs. William W. Miller
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

Family and Parent Education

Chairman: Mrs. Kenneth C. Wilson
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Walter J. Sneider
Diocese of Toledo

Home and School Associations

Chairman: Mrs. George A. O'Sullivan
Archdiocese of St. Louis
Vice Chairman: Miss Katherine Moroney
Diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa

Immigration

Chairman: Mrs. Floyd R. Burton
Diocese of Kansas City
Vice Chairman: Mrs. John F. Murtaugh
Archdiocese of Denver

Inter-American Relations

Chairman: Mrs. Frank M. Erickson
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Vice Chairman: Mrs. E. Carles
Diocese of St. Augustine

International Relations

Chairman: Mrs. Kathleen N. Lardie
Archdiocese of Detroit
Vice Chairman: Mrs. G. H. French
Archdiocese of St. Paul

Legislation

Chairman: Mrs. James P. Flynn, Jr.
Diocese of Cleveland
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Edward J. Holland
Diocese of Portland

Libraries and Literature

Chairman: Mrs. Henri Castagner
Archdiocese of Chicago
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Clarence D. Higgins
Diocese of Superior

Organization and Development

Chairman: Mrs. R. Calvert Haws
Archdiocese of Los Angeles
Vice Chairman: Mrs. George Downer
Archdiocese of Seattle

Public Relations

Chairman: Mrs. Gerald B. Bennett
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Winfield D. Smart
Diocese of Richmond

Rural Life

Chairman: Mrs. Burton Honan
Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Lester Ament
Archdiocese of Dubuque

Social Action

Chairman: Mrs. Philip J. Hornung
Archdiocese of New Orleans
Vice Chairman: Mrs. John P. Garrity
Archdiocese of Detroit

Spiritual Development

Chairman: Mrs. Richard F. Gormley
Diocese of Paterson
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Hugh McGrath
Diocese of Richmond

Study Clubs

Chairman: Mrs. Arthur C. Reilly
Diocese of Brooklyn
Vice Chairman: Miss Marie Thompson
Diocese of Salt Lake City

War Relief

Chairman: Mrs. Anthony J. Scholter
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Thomas A. Kenny
Diocese of Brooklyn

Youth

Chairman: Miss Kathryn H. McCarthy
Diocese of Harrisburg
Vice Chairman: Mrs. Frank Collins
Diocese of Fort Wayne

With NCSSS Today

ON January 21 a special ceremony was held at the National Catholic School of Social Service of the Catholic University of America to pay tribute to the founders and directors of the school. Portraits of 17 educators whose vision and effort formed and guided the school were placed in Shahhan Hall, the administration building of the NCSSS on the campus of the Catholic University. These portraits were assembled by the school's alumni association and presented by Elizabeth Mulholland, president of the association. The alumni association wished to acquaint the students of today and tomorrow with these pioneer leaders and help them to know better the heritage which is theirs. To this end, the association also plans a series of memorial lectures. The first, in honor of Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Burke, C.S.P., first general secretary of the N.C.W.C., will be given by Rev. Eugene Burke, C.S.P., on "The Mystical Body of Christ and Social Work."

Most Rev. Karl J. Alter, Archbishop of Cincinnati and chairman of the Administrative Board, N.C.W.C., presided at the ceremony. Archbishop Alter served on the board of management of the school from 1929 to 1931 and was its director in 1936 and 1937. Assisting Archbishop Alter during the ceremony were Most Rev. Patrick J. McCormick, rector of Catholic University, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jerome D. Hannan, vice-rector,

and Very Rev. Msgr. John J. McClafferty, dean of the school of social work.

The portraits placed included three rectors of the Catholic University: the late Archbishop James Hugh Ryan, the late Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, and Bishop McCormick; Archbishop Alter; Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus; Bishop Francis J. Haas of Grand Rapids; Monsignor John J. O'Grady, secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities; the late Monsignors John J. Burke, John A. Ryan, William J. Kerby, John M. Cooper, and Robert F. Keegan; Rev. Lucian L. Lauerman, past director of NCSSS; the late Rev. Thomas E. Mitchell; the late Dr. Charles P. Neill; the late Dr. Anna M. Nicholson; and the late Agnes G. Regan.

A second portrait of Miss Regan, who served the NCSSS from 1922 to 1943, was placed in the foyer of Agnes Regan Hall, the University's residence for women students.

Archbishop Alter blessed this picture and spoke in moving terms of the woman whom he had known so well during the long years in which she served the National Council of Catholic Women as its first executive secretary, the National Catholic School of Social Service as its assistant director, and the students as their wise friend and devoted mother.

Radio Acclaim For Women

LAST fall, Mary Margaret McBride inaugurated a project, in cooperation with the National Council of Catholic Women, National Council of Jewish Women, and the United Church Women, to give recognition to women in local communities who, alone or in concert with others, were helping to better conditions in their communities.

The National Council of Catholic Women immediately wrote to presidents of archdiocesan, diocesan and state councils, and of affiliated national organizations of Catholic women, acquainting them with this project.

Nominations are beginning to go to Mary Margaret McBride from various parts of the country.

Among the first received was one from Rochester, New York. Mrs. Harriet Schuyler was nominated by the Rochester D.C.C.W. Mrs. Schuyler, the mother of four children and housekeeper for a Rochester family, has nevertheless found time to direct a scholarship fund-raising project, helping to defray the school expenses of needy Negro boys and girls. This project has been going on since 1947.

The Corpus Christi D.C.C.W. sent in the nomination of Mrs. Robert S. Rumsey. Mrs. Rumsey, active in groups affiliated with the N.C.C.W. and the Catholic Daughters of America, has, since the death of her

husband, in 1922, given virtually all her time to aiding the poor, the needy, the sick, the aged, the helpless. Mrs. Rumsey was greatly instrumental in setting up her home town's new tuberculosis hospital (Laredo, Texas). She also worked with the Texas Relief Commission, Housing Authority, Red Cross Home Service Program and the U.S.O.

Here is an opportunity to have considered for public recognition someone from your own area. Perhaps the project initiated by one of your members, or by some woman you know, and carried on in your locality will be an inspiration to others. The person who started the project may be working alone on it, or may have secured the cooperation of others. The important thing is that the project is of benefit to the community. It may be bettering conditions of a minority group—Indian, Negro, Japanese; it may be a project in inter-group relations in the health, education, adult education, or social welfare fields; it may be beautifying the community; it may be ridding the community of objectionable literature; it may be combating vice or crime. A description of the outstanding project and the name of N.C.C.W. should accompany the nomination. All nominations must be sent in before May 1, 1953, to Mary Margaret McBride, Committee on Community Projects, 49 West 45th Street, New York City, New York.

WE in America are in a period of seeming prosperity. There are times when this prosperity seems to have made us forget our obligations as Christians and as citizens.

National Scene

Our first obligation is to the home.

Juvenile delinquency stems from adult delinquency. Consequently, we have an obligation to encourage the leading of clean, wholesome and moral lives, to encourage respect for the sanctity of the home and marriage, for the dignity of the individual person and for moral and civic laws.

Next, we have an obligation to be interested in all that affects the home.

Our newspapers are filled with stories of vice, crime, murders, robbery, narcotics peddling, gambling, rackets and dishonesty in politics.

We have an obligation to be alert to vice and crime in our community and to help eradicate it. Decent, law-abiding citizens should be interested not only in the enactment of adequate laws but also in follow-up to see that the laws are effectively and judiciously enforced. Courageous law enforcement officials and judges must have the support of an aroused and enlightened public opinion.

At the same time we cannot neglect to work for the amelioration of social conditions that breed crime so that all men may live in peace and security, not only in our community, but in the nation and even internationally.

International Scene

The greater contact one has with our fellow man of other countries, the clearer is the importance of a common meeting ground on which a mutual un-

STATEMENTS ADOPTED AT THE 1953 MEETING

OF THE N.C.C.W. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

derstanding can be built. A sincere and intelligent interest in the history and traditions, the resources, the national characteristics of other people, is the indispensable basis of our respect for their achievements and understanding of their problems and difficulties. From such an understanding of the contributions made by many lands to America's own national character, we will get a more humble appreciation of our own great blessings. A sense of social justice and charity will dictate that we must share with peoples of other nations not merely an appreciation of mutual problems but our technical knowledge of ways of meeting and solving them. We commend the high-minded policy of our government in this respect to assist peoples of other nations. Women of this country should emphasize to their husbands and sons, and friends who find themselves in foreign lands, not only the fact that moral laws are binding upon them everywhere but that they are ambassadors of their country in whose hands it lies either to forge bonds of understanding or to discredit their fellow citizens and shatter the hopes of a solid and lasting friendship.

Recent attempts to encourage a disregard for moral law in meeting conditions of over-population are a shocking denial not only of the dignity and sanctity of the human being, but also exhibit a lack of confidence in God and His assistance in helping man meet the challenge of the needed greater production of food. This should challenge right-thinking Americans to an even greater endeavor in aiding our less fortunate neighbors, through govern-

mental and non-governmental assistance.

Immigration

We have a real obligation to help relieve the problems of refugees, escapees, and prospective immigrants, preferably through an immediate change in our basic immigration law, or, if necessary, through emergency legislation.

We should seek immediately a just and acceptable substitute for our National Origins formula.

A notable bar to immigration at the present time is the mortgaging of quotas of up to 50% annually which took place under the Displaced Persons Act. This has resulted in the reduction of available quota numbers to some of the very persons that need them most, since it is from areas with low quota numbers that refugees from Communist persecution have come. Hence we should seek a removal of these mortgages on quotas.

We regret that part-Asian ancestry still remains a bar to immigration for potential migrants from non-Asian countries. Whatever method of distributing visa opportunities is devised, we believe it should not be on the basis of race or racial ancestry.

We pledge our efforts in an educational program to inculcate a Christian and democratic attitude toward immigration.

National Blood Donor Program

Because of the great need for blood and blood plasma, we urge all our affiliated groups to stimulate increased participation in the National Blood Donor Program.

NATIONAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC MEN

Headquarters Report —
Radio and Television for
March—From the Field

Headquarters Report

1953 Convention

The 33rd annual meeting of N.C.C.M. will be held at Hotel Chase in St. Louis on April 11 and 12. Some 3,600 national, state, diocesan and parish men's organizations have been invited to send representatives.

Theme of the convention will be "A Program For Catholic Action." The proceedings generally will be workshops dealing with the tasks of seven committees of N.C.C.M.—youth, family life, civic and social action, communications, religious activities, public relations and legislation.

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, host to the convention, will address the delegates at the opening session. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, episcopal chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations, N.C.W.C., will be featured speaker at a banquet that will close the convention.

Among others who are scheduled to speak are Detroit's Auxiliary Bishop Allen J. Babcock, Msgr. Howard J. Carroll, general secretary, N.C.W.C.; Francis I. Nally of Toledo, O., N.C.C.M. president, and Martin H. Work, N.C.C.M. executive secretary.

A Mass in St. Louis Cathedral will feature the religious portion of the convention, while on the social side there will be a sight-seeing tour in addition to a pre-season baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the St. Louis Browns.

How about sending in an exhibit from *your* organization to be used at the convention? Write to Lawrence M. Reilly, St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, 4371 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri, for specifics.

Servicemen's Page

A special page for men in the Service will appear as a regular feature in *Catholic Men*, starting with the March issue. *Catholic Men* is the monthly publication of the National Council of Catholic Men.

The introductory paragraph on the military page reads: To Uncle Sam's Catholics! This page is done by the men who know you best—your chaplains. If it helps—and if you have any suggestions, questions you would like discussed, comments of any kind, let us know. Our motto is, "Keep The Faith—Spread The Faith!"

Items on the page will be in the *Catholic Men* style,

succinct, capsule articles with such labels as "Clinic for Bruised and Damaged Souls"! (The malady treated in the March number is hasty marriages); "Four Hour Pilots," (swivel chair pilots do four hours a month to keep their rating—like Catholics who do the minimum of four hours per month at Mass); "Dabbling in Dogma," (What in Hell is Hell?), etc.

Samples of short-short items on the page are: Ecclesiastical Daffy-Nitions; "Sack-Religious," The guy who practices his religion in the sack every Sunday morning; Personalities: Sam Slangust is a person whose vocation is to butcher the English language, while dragging God's name all over the place.

Subscriptions to *Catholic Men* cost \$1 per year in the U. S., \$1.50 by air mail overseas.

Miscellany!

The State Department has given assurances to Mrs. William H. Dalton, N.C.C.W. president, and Martin H. Work, N.C.C.M. executive secretary, that U. S. representatives at the U. N. will continue to press for internationalization of Jerusalem. The State Department said that, to be effective, an international regime for the Jerusalem area must be acceptable to the two countries now administering the area, as well as to the international community.

To solicit the cooperation and interest of non-Catholic national organizations in a campaign against indecent literature, N.C.C.M. sent a copy of its testimony before the Gathings Committee to groups like CIO, AFL, National Congress of Parents and Teachers. The responses were most encouraging.

Radio For March

Faith In Our Time, (MBS, 12:45 to 1:00 p.m., EST, Tuesdays and Thursdays). On March 3 (Tuesday) Francis I. Nally, president of N.C.C.M. and editor of the *Toledo Catholic Chronicle*, will be the guest speaker on a program in which prominent laymen tell the meaning of faith to them in their daily living.

On the Thursday series, Father Leo J. Coady, director of Catholic Charities for the Archdiocese of Washington, is being featured.

The Christian In Action, (ABC, 11:30 to 12:00 Noon, EST, Sundays). Hollywood will be well represented on the Lenten programs. Jeff Chandler, Ruth Hussey, Rod O'Connor and many other stars

will appear in cooperation with the Catholic Daughters of America and the Rosary Crusade under the direction of Father Peyton.

A dramatization, "The Sorrowful Mysteries" will be featured. Individual titles are: "The Agony in the Garden," March 1; "The Scourging at the Pillar," March 8; "The Crowning with Thorns," March 14; "The Way of the Cross," March 22; and "The Crucifixion," March 29.

The Catholic Hour, (NBC, 2:00 to 2:30 p. m., EST, Sundays). Father Lawrence Riley, S.T.D., of St. John's Seminary, Boston, Mass., continues his series of seven Lenten talks under the general title: "Lumen Christi—Light of Christ."

Weekly titles: "Blessed are the Meek, Blessed are the Merciful," March 1; "Blessed are they Who Mourn," March 8; "Blessed are they Who Hunger and Thirst for Justice," March 15; "Blessed are the Pure of Heart," March 22; "Blessed are the Peacemakers," March 29; "Blessed are they Who Suffer Persecution for Justice Sake," April 5.

Music for the series is by St. John's Seminary Choir, of Boston.

Both the Catholic Hour and The Christian In Action are heard in Scotland, Holland, Germany, Austria, Japan, Korea, and other countries through the facilities of the Armed Forces Radio Service.

Television For March

Living Room Retreats

Have you ever made a retreat by television? It isn't likely that you have, but an opportunity to do so will be yours during March. "The Catholic Hour" returns to the NBC-TV network on Sunday, March 1, for the first in a series of five "Living Room Retreats." These half-hour telecasts will be carried by 47 NBC-TV stations from coast to coast at 1:30 p. m., EST, on the five Sundays of March.

Leading these TV family retreats in miniature will be Capuchin Father Bertin Roll, national director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, Pittsburgh, Pa. Father Roll is an authority on the Family Retreat Movement, but this is his first try at a retreat via television.

During each program, Father Roll will lead the television audience in prayer and meditation. He will also deliver a sermonette, conduct a problem clinic, and encourage the adoption of certain family practices which will make the home more Christian. The sermonettes will explain the virtues of prayerfulness, resignation to the will of God, patience, humility, and thoughtfulness.

These televised Living Room Retreats will have meaning for every member of the family. They will be entertaining as well as inspiring. They have been planned so that the TV audience will be an integral part of each program, enabling the viewer, as it were, to make the retreat in his living room.

The programs will originate from NBC television studios in New York City.

Five Million Viewers.

The ARB (American Research Bureau) rating of *The Catholic Hour* on TV indicates that approximately 5,000,000 people viewed the January series. This is considerably better than the non-Catholic series which was produced in the same spot during December.

N.C.C.M. received some 2,000 letters asking for copies of scripts.

From The Field

The Faithful Few

The Green Bay Wisconsin, Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies, in the February issue of *The Pulse*, raised the time-honored question about the Faithful Few.

"What percentage of your active members are in the 16 to 30 age brackets?" asks *The Pulse*. "It is no news to the experienced that an old man's society is a dying society . . . How many of your men are asked to do some job during the Holy Name year? For example, when the men serve the breakfast, do you ask the same ones?"

"Some societies have a list of every man in the parish and each man is called to take his turn at this or some other job. This method is their greatest source of new members! They ask all, whether or not they are Holy Name men!"

"Be careful lest you become a closed group, or 'the same old gang.' In many cases the way to get a man to his Holy Name meeting is to ask him to take his turn with the work!"

Toledo.

Toledo D.C.C.M. reports that its delegates to the N.C.C.M. convention in St. Louis will be Paul Flynn, president of the D.C.C.M. and three of the diocesan

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At the N.C.C.M.
Annual National Convention
April 11 and 12

YOUTH CIRCLES THE GLOBE

(Continued from page 7)

(through the spread of the Church's international teaching and collaboration with other organizations on the international level);
(d) the work of post-war relief.

Here again certain problems arise—problems on a local, national and international level. The General Secretariate was placed at the disposal of its federations for just such a purpose—as “organizer,” “co-ordinator,” “disseminator,” “contact,” “seeing-eye”—quite a number of roles to be played on a world stage.

Narrowing the scope from international to individual, the student queries the natural “What will *Pax Romana* do for me?” Here is a world-wide organization whose leaders he has probably never seen and whose goals may appear all out of proportion to his own daily interests. He fails to realize that should he find need for intensifying his spiritual life, for deeper study of his religion, for answers to questions that vaguely bother him in the business world—he will benefit indirectly from *Pax Romana*, and more directly from the local society, professional group, or chaplain. These societies or persons may refer to suggestions, bibliographies, and study programs outlined by the national office.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

No one individual can do much to change the tide of world affairs! That is probably just how Herman Neusch, an energetic young Catholic of WAY (World Assembly of Youth) and YAC (Young Adult Council), felt as he hesitatingly waded into his first big challenge. He did not sink under the weight, but rose quickly to the top—first as a leader in the Newman Club at the University of Texas, later serving as an international vice-president of the Federation, originating a plan for the placement of DP students and just recently returned from Dakar, French West Africa, where he was a member of the United States Delegation to WAY.

Herman Neusch witnessed the growth of WAY from the rubble of the World Federation of Democratic Youth, communist dominated; he witnessed the declaration of a free world for a democratic international youth organization. WAY was formerly established in 1949, holding its first Council meeting in Brussels, Belgium. During the year that followed, WAY set up headquarters in Brussels, developed a program and assisted in the formation of several youth councils which brought together the principal youth organizations in the member countries.

By the time of the second Council meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, people were beginning to sneer at the World Assembly of Youth. How could any progress come from such a melting pot—youth of different races, creeds, and colors trying to draft a philosophy which would make young people work for democracy with the same burning ardor communist youth work for communism? There was only one road open—wait and see.

Membership grew from twenty-nine nations to thirty-three in 1950, and by 1951 ten more countries affiliated when WAY held its first General Assembly on the campus of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. Here it was that several hard-won achievements could be proudly pronounced; representative national youth councils had been formed in forty-four countries, an international youth “passport” had been approved and distributed, a series of booklets about member countries was written for young adults traveling to those countries, and the organizations had worked actively and effectively with the UN's Economic and Social Council and with UNESCO. Perhaps, however, most important of all, WAY had pointed a finger on the conditions of youth in underdeveloped countries long forgotten by the West.

But youth were not misled—as Herman Neusch says: “There is still a failure on the part of too many to understand that the fundamental problems of youth will be solved only by helping young people to achieve better working conditions, by eliminating racial discrimination, by providing technical assistance so that they may improve their own conditions, and by helping them obtain a basic education.”

Does not this whole picture augur well for the future? American Catholic young people interested in world affairs, enter the ranks of the affiliates of the National Council of Catholic Men and of the National Council of Catholic Women, bringing with them experience gained through seeing the other side of the ocean, talking with youth from around the globe, listening to problems, big and small, from exchange students—the future leaders in their own countries. Youth—mark them well—have carved a new place for themselves lettered “World Affairs”! Christ-centered, global-conscious, youth stand ready to meet the future.

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Statements on Human Rights (Mimeo), Prepared for President Truman, Human Rights Day, 1952, by affiliates of Young Adult Council (National Social Welfare Assembly, 1790 Broadway, New York, N.Y.)
Newman Club Manual (Reprint), National Newman Club Federation, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C. 25¢

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Is sufficient progress being made in bringing world affairs to the attention of our Catholic youth in America?
What specific projects indicate the interest and action of American Catholic youth in world problems?
What are the opportunities for individual youth participating in world affairs?
How do Catholic youth compare with other young people in their interests and activities in this field?
What are the organizations that provide channels for the voice and action of Catholic youth in world affairs?

NATIONAL COUNCIL CATHOLIC MEN

(Continued from page 17)

chairmen of the D.C.C.M.'s Six Standing Committees: Walter Frederick, William J. Syring, and Norbert Stechschulte. Accompanying them will be Father Lawrence J. Ernst, diocesan moderator.

Some of the activities in which the Toledo D.C.C.M. are engaged include: presenting the N.C.C.S. booklet, "Greetings," to men entering the Service; activating a blood donor program; stimulating the formation of parish credit unions; fostering the organization of discussion clubs on the encyclicals, retreats, and discussion groups built around Father Keller's "30,000 Career Guidance Schools."

New Orleans.

The New Orleans A.C.C.M. is setting up plans now for a diocesan-wide convention in New Orleans, Sunday, May 31. It will open with a Mass presided over by New Orleans' Archbishop Joseph E. Rummel, at historical St. Louis Cathedral.

The convention will be on a "panel" basis, each covering one of the fields of activity in the A.C.C.M.'s constitution. Between five and six hundred people are expected to attend.

The convention theme will be "More a la St. Thomas More." Special honor will be paid to Archbishop Rummel who is celebrating his silver anniversary as a bishop.

San Francisco.

The Sonoma-Mendocino Deanery Council of the San Francisco A.C.C.M. was formally organized at Santa Rosa, California, with enthusiastic delegations from the Holy Name societies, Knights of Columbus, Young Men's Institute and the Italian Catholic Federation. John F. Brandenburg of Santa Monica was chosen president, with Joseph S. Moniz of Sebastopol as vice president.

Delegates heard Father John J. Scanlan, A.C.C.M. moderator, stress the importance of lay participation in, and understanding of, the Mass. The "Dialogue" Mass was encouraged at the discussion.

February 1 saw the organization of the San Joaquin-Stanislaus Deanery C.C.M. John W. Harrity was named president with Father William P. Kennedy, moderator.

Detroit.

The Detroit A.C.C.M. and A.C.C.W. are jointly sponsoring a series of informal talks and discussions on "Government Is Your Business." Outstanding Catholic attorneys are the speakers.

Both the Cincinnati A.C.C.M. and the Detroit A.C.C.M. continue to be active in radio rosary crusades.

Brooklyn.

James Hanrahan, past president of the Brooklyn Diocesan Holy Name Union, represented N.C.C.M. at

the UNESCO meeting in New York, February 26-27.

Boston.

The first convention of the Boston A.C.C.M. and A.C.C.W. was held to the tune of the Boston Symphony at a luncheon meeting on Feb. 15, attended by some 1500 delegates.

PARISH ACTIVITY

(Continued from page 3)

"Therefore, it will be necessary to arrive at an effective union of all militant forces. We have said at another time that uniformity, in so far as it destroys variety, would be above all a strategic error in the alignment of the Catholic front. There is no doubt, then, that there ought to be a great respect for the various associations approved and blessed by the Church, at least while they remain alive and lively. But a variety left to itself, without finding, so to speak, unity at the top, would have damaging effects in the conduct of the peaceful struggle for the conquest of the world to Christ.

"There is, moreover, a sphere of true fraternity to be created and fostered among the faithful. The hearts of the first Christians were so strongly moved by the grace of God and the impulse of the Holy Spirit that the more wealthy voluntarily sold their possessions to assist the others, in such a way that 'there was no needy one among them' (Acts 4, 32-35)."

"In the spirit of this common union, you ought to work untiringly so that Jesus may be known, loved, and served by all. Do not forget that this is the purpose of all parochial life . . . The center is the church; and in the church, the tabernacle with the confessional at the side, where dead souls again find life, and sick souls regain health.

"To work realistically and organically it is necessary to learn to recognize the true faithful in the parish . . . The true, the living faithful are seen at the foot of the altar when the priest distributes the living Bread that came down from Heaven.

"We strongly desire, beloved sons and daughters, that there be born in all of you, and that it grow great every day, a sort of holy restlessness to find means suited to bring back light where there are shadows and to give back life to those who are dead . . . A parish in which all remember to invoke the Lord every day will not take long to perceive that life is again springing up within it . . ."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

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Msgr. Lawrence Casey Named Auxiliary To Bishop Kearney

Msgr. Lawrence B. Casey of Rochester, N.Y., has been named by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to be Titular Bishop of Cea and Auxiliary to Bishop James E. Kearney of Rochester.

Bishop-elect Casey was born in Rochester, September 6, 1905, and was ordained to the priesthood in the then St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester, June 7, 1930. Following ordination he served as assistant pastor, vice chancellor of the diocese, pastor of Holy Cross Church in Rochester, and rector of the Pro-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Our congratulations are extended to the new Auxiliary of Rochester.

Two New Pamphlets—

Eucharistic Fast—Industrial Order

Christus Dominus, the new Apostolic Constitution of His Holiness Pope Pius XII on the discipline to be observed with respect to the Eucharistic fast, has just been published in pamphlet form by the N.C.W.C. Publications Office. The booklet also contains an Instruction on the regulations of the Constitution issued by the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office as well as an explanatory article by the Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., dean of the School of Sacred Theology of the Catholic University of America.

At the same time a pamphlet on *Seven Pillars of Industrial Order* by the Most Rev. Francis J. Haas, Bishop of Grand Rapids, has just been published by the Catholic Conference on Industrial Problems.

Both publications are priced at 15¢ per copy, plus postage, with a discount for quantity orders.

Calendar of Scheduled Catholic Meetings and Events

(Continued from page 2)

August, 1953

- 3-7—DIOCESAN DIRECTORS OF THE CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE—17th annual convention, New York, New York
- 17-21—NATIONAL LITURGICAL WEEK, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
- 22-24—NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS—Student government presidents' conference, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 25-30—NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC COLLEGE STUDENTS—10th national Congress, Cincinnati, Ohio.

September, 1953

- 2-6—NATIONAL NEWMAN CLUB FEDERATION—39th national convention, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 22-24—NATIONAL CATHOLIC CEMETERY CONFERENCE—annual meeting, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 27-28—CATHOLIC CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL AND SOCIAL RELATIONS—regional conference, Portland, Ore. Originally set for early October.

October, 1953

- 1-6—NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHARITIES—annual convention, St. Louis, Mo.
- 18-25—NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH WEEK—3rd annual

November, 1953

- 5-8—NATIONAL FEDERATION OF DIOCESAN CATHOLIC YOUTH COUNCILS—second national convention, Boston, Mass.
- 8-9—NATIONAL CATHOLIC CAMPING ASSOCIATION—second national convention, Boston, Mass.
- 9-13—NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CATHOLIC YOUTH WORK—fourth national meeting, Boston, Mass.

December, 1953

- 28-30—AMERICAN CATHOLIC HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION—34th annual meeting, Chicago, Ill.

CATHOLIC ACTION — MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE CONFERENCE

"We have grouped together, under the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the various agencies by which the cause of religion is furthered. Each of these, continuing its own special work in its chosen field, will now derive additional support through general co-operation."

—from the 1919 Pastoral Letter of the Archbishops and Bishops of the U. S.

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